SEAWARD
KAYAKS

Thermoformed Owners Manual

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Welcome to the Seaward Family!

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Seaward Kayak! Be proud… you have purchased the very best kayak available on the market today. Our dedicated team of passionate boat-building professionals have hand-crafted your new kayak with the care and expertise borne of over 125 years of combined experience. Your safety and enjoyment have always been our top priority so take comfort in knowing that our entire company has utilized its best effort into the design and construction of your new Seaward kayak.

Quality, performance and innovation are built into every Seaward Kayak. Whether you are a new or experienced paddler, we hope you enjoy many years of adventuring with your new boat. We know you are excited to get out on the water, but we ask you to please take the time to familiarize yourself with the safety guidelines in this manual. Educating yourself will impart to you key information that will make you a more confident kayaker, as well as make you aware of the potential dangers that may exist when kayaking.

This manual also contains important information about the unique features of your Seaward kayak. It shows you how to care for and operated your new kayak. We encourage you to read the manual thoroughly as it will increase your understanding of your kayak and its capabilities.

With Seaward Kayaks, you can be confident you're paddling the safest and best-built hand-crafted kayak available today.

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT SAFETY…

Check your local boating regulations for a list of required safety equipment when kayaking. At a minimum, your kayak should carry the following items:

- Paddle float
- Throw bag with buoyant line
- Whistle
- Hand pump
- Spray Skirt
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) should always be worn when kayaking

In addition, depending on where you paddle and the various conditions you may encounter, you might also carry: a compass, signal flares/Rescue Streamer, first-aid kit, repair kit, knife, spare paddle, etc. It is advisable to research the areas you will be touring and include appropriate additional equipment for emergencies.

Before Kayaking, You Should:

- Familiarize yourself with all features & accessories for your Seaward Kayak
- Obtain appropriate instruction from a certified kayak instructor
- Obtain appropriate instruction in first-aid techniques and CPR
- Become aware of the risks and prevention of Hypothermia
- Use appropriate equipment and clothing that will increase your safety in conditions that may occur while kayaking
- Never kayak alone - have a paddling buddy
- Read literature about kayaking to increase your knowledge & safety

Warning

Water and weather conditions can create hazardous situations. It is ***your*** responsibility to become familiar with potential hazards to avoid injury or death while kayaking.

Obtain certified instruction and become familiar with your new kayak in a safe environment. Familiarize yourself with maritime regulations in your area (i.e. Coast Guard regulations). Learn about weather, waves, coastlines, first-aid, navigation, rescue, survival and other hazards before you expose yourself or others to potentially hazardous situations.

Seaward Kayaks designs and constructs the finest kayaks available, with careful consideration given towards safety when designing all of our kayaks. However, we cannot be responsible for how a person conducts themselves while paddling, so please understand that the use of any Seaward Kayaks product is conditional on the operator assuming full responsibility for any injury or death that may occur in connection with the use of same.

Some Cool Seaward Kayak Features

Self Rescue System™ (SRS™)

Self Rescue System™ is available on all Seaward kayak models, and is used in conjunction with a paddle float. Nylon rescue straps mounted on the deck just aft of the cockpit can be used during a rescue. While using the SRS straps, the paddle can be securely attached to the deck of the kayak, making paddle-float self-rescue safer and easier.

During re-entry place the paddle at right angles to the kayak, slide paddle blade under the straps and slide a paddle float on the other blade. This creates a stable 'outrigger' to assist re-entry. After re-entry, pull on the red tabs to safely release your paddle blade.

It' s the Little Things that Make a Difference…

Recessed Deck Fittings and Grab Handles ensure you won't get caught up when doing a wet exit or entry. Reflective rigging provides high visibility in low light conditions.

Our specially engineered hull features a unique "lifting chine" that aids buoyancy and provides for a dryer ride!

The Seaward safeHATCH™ System

Avail on most models, the safeHATCH™ system provides three levels of storage protection.

1. The hard-shell outer hatch cover is tethered to the boat to prevent loss.
2. The neoprene inner hatch cover is also tethered to the kayak. They are custom fitted for each hatch so we've silk-screened them with instructions to confirm how they go on.
3. Should your hard-shell and/or neoprene hatch-cover get lost or damaged, any waterproof material (cockpit cover or even a garbage bag) can be secured over the hatch using the bungee system. This creates a water-resistant seal that allows the kayak to be safely paddled to your destination.

MORE ABOUT HATCH COVERS

One-Piece Hatch Covers

Seaward's *Infiniti* and *Foster* models utilize one piece hatch covers. These covers are made of plastic & rubber and are very durable and easy to use.

Make sure your hatch cover is fully centered and seated completely at the edge before using your kayak. Small gaps between the cover and the hatch ring will allow water to enter your kayak, potentially compromising your safety and comfort.

Kajak Sport oval hatches come with a "hash mark" on the cover and ring at the 12:00 and 6:00 positions. By aligning these marks, you can ensure that your hatch cover is installed properly each time. Rinse your hatch covers at the same time you rinse your kayak.

One piece hatch covers include a tether to connect the cover to the kayak. Be sure the tether remains in place and attached to avoid losing the cover accidentally. Periodically treat the hatch cover and ring with 303 Protectant. This will prevent UV damage and will also make the hatch cover easier to install over the ring.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE WHILE TRAVELING:

One piece hatch covers can create an air-tight seal. Changes in temperature or altitude can cause the hatch covers to expand or contract. The changes in air pressure can also damage bulkheads. To avoid this, loosely fit the hatch cover while travelling so that air can move freely in and out of the bulkhead compartment. Or, simply remove the hatches altogether while travelling.

Compression Hatch

Certain Seaward kayaks models (*Intrigue, Passage, SR Series*) are fitted with compression hatches. These hatches are very effective when used correctly. Make sure that retaining shock-cord is tight and ensure that gasket channel is clean.

Occasionally wipe 303 Aerospace Protectant on the gasket so it remains pliable.

Day Hatch

The new SR Super Rec™ Series kayaks feature a water proof day hatch for storing cameras, snacks or valuables in an easily accessible place. Situated on the deck right in front of you, this day hatch unscrews and has a tether to prevent it being lost.

Rudder/Skeg Description and Use

Depending on the model, your kayak may be equipped with either a rudder or a skeg.

RUDDERS

A rudder can help keep your kayak on course in difficult weather and currents. It can also help you control the direction of your kayak.

To move the rudder to one side, pivot or slide the foot pedal on that side forward. On kayaks equipped with locking (pivoting) foot pedals, it is only necessary to tilt the foot slightly to push the top of the pedal and move the rudder. Just remember, "Push right, Go right - Push left, Go left".

Never force the foot pedals. Before launching, always check to make sure your foot pedals move the rudder fully from one side to the other. If there is less than full movement, adjust the pedals (see page 8) or otherwise inspect the mechanism to determine why there is less than a full range of movement.

The Traditional Seaward Rudder

To deploy a rudder on kayaks with a traditional system, pull the large knot/toggle on the rudder deployment line on the port side, behind the cockpit on the stern of the kayak.

Once you're familiar with the location of this knot/toggle, you won't need to turn around to pull the knot. To bring the rudder back up on deck, simply pull the large knot/toggle behind you on starboard side.

Alternative available rudder systems are listed on the next page…

RDS™ (Rudder Deployment System)

Seaward's initial (2008-2011) ruddered thermoform kayaks were equipped with the Rudder Deployment Switch - RDS.

To operate, just slide the control knob towards the stern to deploy the rudder. To retract the rudder, slide the control knob towards the bow.

Note that the kayak must be moving for the rudder to help turn the kayak.

SR Super Rec™ Series Rudder:

Seaward's SR Super Rec™ series of kayaks feature a new retractable rudder. When not in use the rudder retracts up on to the deck.

With a simple flick of the finger, the rudder automatically deploys. Simply flick the toggle out of it's pouch to release it, which allows the rudder to move down into position.

Pull the toggle back into its recess to retract the rudder.

Skeg

A retractable skeg can help keep your kayak on course in difficult wind and currents. Skegs will lessen or eliminate the tendency of most kayaks to turn up into the wind, or 'weathercock'. However, a skeg will not help turn the kayak.

To deploy the skeg, slide the control knob forward. To retract the skeg, slide the control knob back. A skeg blade can be partially deployed if need be, to fine tune the amount of control applied. Always retract the skeg when coming into the beach or when landing the kayak. On kayaks equipped with a skeg, the foot pedals are for comfort and bracing only and shouldn't move or pivot.

Foot Pedals

All Seaward Kayaks come standard with Seadog Foot Pedals. To adjust these foot pedals turn the red plastic 'flag' to the open position. The foot pedal will now slide freely on the track.

Note that the flag itself and the red connecting rod do not slide, only the foot pedal.

When the foot pedal is in a comfortable position, turn the 'flag' back to the closed position. You can adjust the angle of the foot pedal by either loosening or tightening the webbing strap buckle behind the seat pillars.

For the best blend of comfort and performance, the balls of the feet should be on the foot pedal and the thighs should be secure, and comfortably located up under the thigh braces.

For most paddlers, the feet will be in a ‘heels in – toes out’ position.

Novice paddlers tend to adjust their foot pedals too far away, making it necessary to ‘reach’ and then lose contact with the thigh braces. It is preferable to have the pedals closer in order to keep firm contact with the thigh braces and maintain a "locked in" or “braced” feeling.

For maximum comfort during a long paddle, be sure to move your feet off of the foot pedals and stretch from time to time.

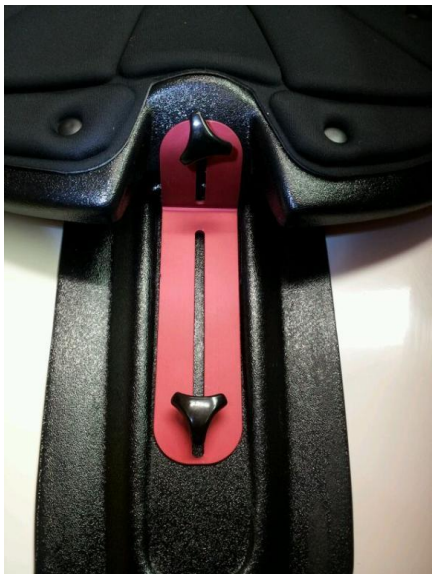
Fitting Your Kayak for Comfort and Performance

Standard Seat: (Traditional Configuration)

Seaward’s anatomically molded and padded seat has an adjustable backrest. A large screw knob on the rear of the backrest will raise and lower the seat back.

There are also webbing straps which can be tightened or loosened to adjust the forward and backward angle of the seat back.

INTRODUCING… The **ALL NEW** 5-WAY ADJUSTIBLE SEAT!



Available on the entire line of SR Super Rec™ Series of kayaks:

Pura SR-120
Halo SR-130
Compass SR-140

All SR Kayaks come standard with an ALL NEW, 5-WAY Fully Adjustable seat and backrest. This seat fits bums of all sizes and shapes while offering the most customization of any recreational kayak seat on the market today.

The seat itself is adjustable forwards/backwards with a beautiful and simple-to-operate slider. Additionally, you can alter the angle of the seat to give more or less thigh support. These functions are operated by the screw knobs on front of the seat as shown at left.

Another screw-knob on the rear support pillar will raise and lower the backrest, which also swivels forward and backwards. Additionally, a pull cord allows you to alter the pitch angle of the entire backrest assembly (shown bottom right). Simply release the cord from its cam-cleat & adjust the backrest as required, then re-deploy the cord into cleat to lock it in place.

Experience the astonishing comfort of TRUE 5-WAY Adjustability!

The SEAWARD KAYAKS Philosophy…

The goal at Seaward has always been to build the safest and most comfortable Kayak available today – bar none. To this end, Seaward has been hard at work over the past year designing and building our new SR Super Rec™ Series of kayaks. It has been no small feat to integrate this within the flow of our normal production schedule and we are extremely excited about the new designs and the response they are getting from both seasoned paddlers and beginners alike.

While the R&D that went into the new SR Series kayaks reflects the very latest in advanced hull design, our philosophy remains constant. Seaward prides itself on building the strongest, most durable and highest quality kayaks available. Seaward Kayaks are built to perform and built to last, which is why our composite kayaks are so sought after by outfitters and expeditions.

This philosophy extends to our thermoformed line of kayaks and we have adopted a similar approach and commitment to quality that is clearly evident. We do things differently here -- we call it `The Seaward Way`. We use more material than our competitors, we use the highest quality components available, we build-in redundancy, we add extra processes to maximize strength… in short: We Don't Cut Corners. Then we test, re-test and incorporate feedback to produce a product we are proud to distribute.

The trend in the Paddle Sports industry at present is for lighter weight kayaks. Consider that grabbing a kayak off the shelf in a show room and paddling one on water are two entirely different things. In all honesty can you actually tell how much a kayak weighs when it's in the water? A stronger, more durable craft is certainly safer and represents better long term value.

There is good reason we at Seaward Kayaks build the way we do and we stand by our process 100%. We simply DO NOT COMPROMISE when it comes to quality of construction and the inherent safety that a well-built kayak will provide you.

Seaward hopes this information will provide you greater comfort knowing that your Seaward Kayak is simply the best built thermoformed kayak available today. Simply put, you cannot achieve this level of durability from a lighter weight and therefore inherently weaker kayak.

We also hope this information assists our dealer network when presenting the unique features of our kayaks to their clients.

The SEAWARD WAY - No Compromises

Kayak Care

Cockpit Cover

A cockpit cover prevents debris and water from entering your kayak, prolonging its life and 'like new' condition. These are available form Seaward Kayaks.

Cleaning

Rinse the entire kayak with fresh water after each use and always after exposure to salt water. Pay particular attention to the backrest, foot pedals, rudder, neoprene hatch covers and deck lines. Rinse any sand and debris out of the cockpit, hatches and rudder assembly with fresh water. Dry the hatch seals thoroughly with a soft cloth or sponge before replacing hatch covers.

The exterior of the kayak can be washed with a mild detergent. A UV protectant spray such as 303 Aerospace Protectant can help prevent fading and UV damage to the kayak.

Preventive Maintenance

Check nylon adjusting straps, shock cord, ropes, cables and keel guard for wear. Replace if necessary.

Check bulkheads for air tightness using the neoprene hatch cover. Lift a corner of the hatch cover while pushing down in the center. Replace the corner, creating a seal. The air should stay trapped. If it does not, you may have a leak. Reseal bulkheads with silicone or have the kayak professionally repaired.

Transporting and Security

Always secure your kayak properly when storing, transporting or locking it up. When transporting your kayak, it should be empty with the rudder or skeg in the locked position. Use a solid, specialized roof rack system with kayak cradles. Kayak cradles distribute pressure evenly when loaded on a kayak rack.

Cam buckle straps and bow and stern lines provide the safest, most secure transport of your kayak. Always place straps as close as possible to the bulkheads for this is the strongest area of a boat. Cinch the straps snugly without over-tightening. Over-tightening can put undue stress on your boat's hull, and can cause damage to the finish on a fiberglass/composite kayak. It can also cause warping of the hull on a thermoform boat. Run bow and stern safety lines as a secondary safety measure if need be.

To lock your kayak onto a roof rack, run a cable through the cockpit coaming's side flaps (beside the seat bottom), the U-bolt, or security bar. Fasten the cable to the roof rack. It's a good idea to stop and check your load occasionally as you travel.

Storage

To prevent rain and debris from entering the cockpit, always use a cockpit cover when storing or transporting your kayak.

Protect your kayak from exposure to the sun and UV damage. A kayak stored in very cold conditions may become fragile, so avoid impact until it warms up.

When storing the kayak, remove any neoprene hatch covers to prevent the elastic from stretching out and to allow airflow in the compartments. Additionally, the cockpit cover should be removed periodically and any moisture in the cockpit area sponged out (humidity can condense & pool in the cockpit area when covered).

Kayaks should be raised off the ground during storage to help prevent moisture build-up. To suspend a kayak we recommend using a cradle of 2" or wider nylon strapping around the bulkhead area. Never hang a kayak from the bow or stern. Your local Seaward Kayak dealer can advise you storage options.

The Seaward Kayak Warranty

All thermoformed kayaks manufactured by Seaward Kayaks are warrantied against defects in materials and workmanship in the hull and deck for **three years**.

In the case of replacement, a hull or deck of the same or equivalent model may be used, at the exclusive discretion of Seaward Kayaks.

Seat, foot braces, knee/thigh braces and rudder system are warrantied for **one year** subject to the following terms: *Seats, foot braces, knee/thigh braces or rudder systems that prove defective within a period of 12 months from the original date of purchase will either be repaired or replaced at the sole discretion of Seaward Kayaks Ltd.*

To activate your Original Owner Warranty, you must register on-line at www.seawardKayaks.com within ten days of the date of original purchase. Please retain your original sales receipt as proof of purchase.

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This warranty will be null and void if the kayak is used in commercial applications, has been structurally altered in any manner, or the kayak has been stressed beyond the normal physical limits of the materials.

This warranty does not cover freight damage, improper storage, normal wear and tear, colour fading, abrasions, improper use, abuse, towing of the kayak, or scratches on the Poly carbonate window (Intrigue model only).

Seaward Kayaks Ltd. reserves the right to modify its designs, specifications or products without notice and is under no obligation to modify, retrofit or incorporate such changes into any kayaks in production, in the possession of dealers or in use by paddlers.

Boats repaired or replaced under this warranty may or may not incorporate any changes in design or specification.

The Warranty contained herein is the whole and exclusive warranty made by Seaward Kayaks Ltd. There are no other warranties, expressed or implied, including a warranty of fitness for a particular purpose or of merchantability made with respect to any boat.

Seaward Kayaks Ltd. is not liable for any injury, mishap or loss incurred in connection with the use of this product, however caused. Use of a Seaward Kayak constitutes knowledge and accepetance of the limits and liabilities described herein, and the user acknowledges and assumes any risks associated with such use and waives any and all claims against Seaward Kayaks Ltd, its owners, directors, staff, representatives, heirs, agents and assigns.